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| APPLICATION NO.   | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.      | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| 10/014,509  | 12/14/2001  | Masayoshi Suzuki     | 382684/00                | 3599             |
| 7590 07/13/2004   |             |                      |                          |                  |
| McGinn & Gibb, PLLC<br>8321 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 200<br>Vienna, VA 22182-3817 |             |                      | EXAMINER<br>ERDEM, FAZLI |                  |
|   |             |                      | ART UNIT<br>2826         | PAPER NUMBER     |

DATE MAILED: 07/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. Claims 4,7,8,11-13 and 17 allowed.
2. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Prior art failed to establish the protrusions and the pixel electrodes in the required manner.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

4. Claims 5, 15 and 18 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Takizawa et al. (6,573,964).

Regarding Claims 5, 15, and 18, Takizawa et al. disclose a multidomain vertically aligned liquid crystal display device where in Fig. 3, substrate 20 and 21, liquid

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crystal layer between the substrates, protrusion 11 on substrate 21 opposing the pixel electrode 1 located on substrate 20. The protrusion 11 on substrate 21 is located the center of the pixel electrode 1.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fazli Erdem whose telephone number is (703) 305-3868. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F 8:00 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan Flynn can be reached on (703) 308-6601. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

FE  
July 10, 2004

  
NATHAN J. FLYNN  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800